

# MEMO

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**TO:** Energy and Environment Committee  
**FROM:** Ted Harris, Associate Planner, 213-236-1916, harrist@scag.ca.gov  
**DATE:** October 7, 2004  
**SUBJECT:** South Coast Air Quality Management District Model Air Quality Element

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## **Recommended Action:**

Information.

## **BACKGROUND**

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is preparing a Model Air Quality Element for General Plan Updates to assist cities and counties in the South Coast Air Basin to help improve air quality. An Air Quality Element in a General Plan is optional in California, and the Model Air Quality Element is intended to encourage cities and counties to adopt or update an Air Quality Element to help protect citizens within their boundaries and to collectively improve air quality throughout Southern California.

SCAG has recently initiated the process to update the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP), which includes an Air Quality Element. The Regional Comprehensive Plan is an action oriented, advisory, long range planning tool that promotes regional policy objectives, such as improving air quality. The purpose of the RCP Air Quality element will be to promote measures designed to reduce emissions and improve ambient air quality. The South Coast Air Quality Management District's Model Air Quality Element can complement SCAG's RCP Air Quality element, and coordinating the SCAQMD's Model Air Quality Element with SCAG's RCP Air Quality element could help bolster the success of both efforts.

Terry McCall, Air Quality Specialist for SCAQMD, will provide an overview of the purpose and content of the SCAQMD's Model Air Quality Element. His presentation is attached.



## Status Report on Developing

### AQMD's Model Air Quality Element (MAQE) October 2004

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## Seven Elements Required General Plans

- Circulation
- Conservation
- Housing
- Land Use
- Noise
- Open Space
- Safety

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## What is the MAQE

- A user-friendly Resource Guide that provides information on air quality and public health that can be integrated into land use decisions
- A wide range of options to develop or update air quality element
- Cities have the option of adopting portions of the MAQE in the existing Plan or as a separate Element in the Plan

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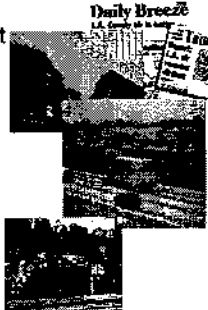
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## Why Add MAQE?

- A tool for local government participation in air quality stewardship is through the exercise of wise land use authority.
- Protect public health of residents and help the region achieve clean air.



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## Goals

- Reduce air pollution impacts on sensitive receptors (i.e., schools, residences) by encouraging the use of barriers and distance requirements to separate sensitive receptors from emission sources.



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## Goals

- Adopt a definition/ policy to ensure land use decisions are made in an equitable fashion to protect residents, *regardless of age, culture, ethnicity, gender, race, socioeconomic status, or geographic location*, from the health effects of air pollution.



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## Goals

- Reduce pollution from mobile sources, specifically toxic diesel emissions and support legislation that promotes clean fuel-efficient vehicles



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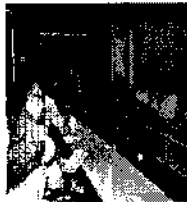
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## Goals

- Developing multi-jurisdictional cooperation by coordinating with the AQMD to ensure the air quality plan and emission reduction elements in environmental assessments are implemented



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## Goals

- Reduce pollution from stationary sources:
  - Developing standards and design guidelines to require use of building materials and methods to reduce emissions
  - Suspension of grading operations during smog alerts and on windy days
  - Enforcing the city clearance letter provision of State Law



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### Outreach

- **Stakeholder Meetings**
- **Public Consultation Meetings**
  - March and April 2004
- **Outreach to Cities and Counties -- 2005**
  - Target cities without air quality elements in their General Plans
  - Encourage cities with air quality elements to update them based on the MAQE

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### Adoption Schedule

- **Revised Draft – October**
- **Stakeholder Meeting on Revised Draft - October**
- **Governing Board Adoption Hearing- November 2004 (Tentative)**

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